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## Newsletter - 1976-06-03

E. De la Garza

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FROM: Kika de la Garza

Washington, D C

THE NEW BUDGET PROCESS in the Federal Government is on track and moving forward. It is a system designed to enable Congress to regain genuine and effective control of the power of the purse, as the Constitution intends. And I know that budgetary control is very much on the minds of many people in our area. You tell me so in person and in the letters you write me.

In the past, Federal fiscal policy has been dominated by a bits and pieces approach. The result has been a failure to adjust the budget on a timely basis to the needs of the economy and an inability to establish priorities on a sound basis.

To change this, Congress passed the Budget Reform Act of 1974 which divided Federal spending into 16 categories. The Act provides that by May 15 of each calendar year each of these categories and the total must be approved as targets for the following fiscal year, beginning October 1, along with revenue targets and the resulting surplus or deficit. And during each September these targets are to be hammered into relatively rigid ceilings and goals. The recent congressional approval by the stipulated date of May 15 of the first joint resolution on budget targets is a significant endorsement of the new system. It is encouraging to all of us who see the necessity for getting Federal spending under control.

The deficit projected for the next fiscal year is far too big, in my opinion. In fact, I am opposed to deficit spending as shown by my proposed Constitutional amendment requiring the matching of government income and government outgo. Pending the adoption of such an amendment, however, Congress now has the tools to cut down the deficit year after year until it is eliminated. Action taken so far this year shows that Congress also has the will to use those tools. That is a good thing for all of us.

\* \* \*

JOBS ARE A FACTOR of basic importance in efforts to reduce Federal spending. The House Budget Committee calculates that each percentage point of unemployment automatically adds about \$16 billion to the deficit -- in taxes not received and in additional payments for welfare and unemployment compensation. The taxpayers -- that is, all of us -- simply cannot afford the present high level of unemployment.

The unemployment rate now stands at 7.4 percent. If we can cut it to five percent, the Federal deficit at current spending levels would be reduced by three-fourths. If we can get the jobless rate down to four percent, there would be a surplus. So the Federal budget can be balanced if we put Americans back to work. That is the road to stable expansion of the economy in the Nation and in South Texas.

\* \* \*

OUR FISHING INDUSTRY has an interest in two actions recently taken in Washington.

Shrimp fishermen, the U S International Trade Commission reported to President Ford, are suffering "serious injury" from increased imports. The Commission said the industry should receive trade adjustment assistance. Under the Trade Act of 1974, the President has 60 days to act on the recommendation. If he rejects it or changes the suggested remedy, Congress can overrule him by majority vote within 90 days. Shrimp imports totaled \$346.2 million last year and have been rising steadily since 1968, the Commission reported. It proposed financial benefits for workers and making shrimp-fishing concerns eligible for low interest loans and other aid. This is not enough.

A tough policy restricting foreign ships from taking living resources of the U S Continental Shelf is reaffirmed by proposed standards issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Vessels violating the restrictions will be subject to arrest and seizure. The resources covered by the policy include creatures which, at the harvestable stage, are immobile on or under the seabed or are in constant physical contact with the seabed, such as crabs, oysters, lobsters and sponges. The regulations, when finally adopted, will replace State Department diplomatic notes which initially put the policy into effect in December 1974.

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THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD I offer each year to an outstanding graduate of my old school, Mission High, goes this year to Diana Munguia, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Manuel Munguia, Route 1, Mission. Diana was selected for the award by the superintendent of the school and the Mission Ministerial Alliance. My warm congratulations to her!

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3976 AD! According to a study which sounds authoritative, if each sheet of the records issued by the Federal Government in a single year was set on fire separately, it would take 2,000 years to burn them all. Maybe it would be going too far to destroy all of them, but we ought to start somewhere and those of us who have to deal with these forms can't wait 2,000 years. I'm trying to get paperwork cut down now.

\* \* \*

VISITORS FROM HOME: Visiting my office from home this week were Mr Librado P Garcia of Reston, Virginia, formerly of Benavides; David Duffey and Mrs Mary E Hartin of Brownsville; Mr Frank Castellanos of Edinburg; Dr Edward D Leary of Kingsville; Ms Judy Baker of La Feria; Mr Scott Atlas, Mr and Mrs Howard Faulkner, and Mrs Jack C McNeely of McAllen; Mr Alfredo Herrera of Mission; Mr Pearson Knolle of Sandia; Sister M de Fatima Felker of Cd Delicias, Chih, Mexico, formerly of Santa Rosa; and Mrs Betty H Duncan of South Padre Island.

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